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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, Sovereign of history, who gives beginnings and an end, on whom our mortal efforts depend, soon this hallowed Chamber will be silent for a time. The 104th Congress will be completed. Historians will write the human judgments of what has been accomplished, but You will have the final word about what has been achieved. It is Your affirmation that we seek. Senators in both parties have prayed to know and do Your will. Often there has been sharp disagreement on what is best for our Nation. Thank You for those times that debate led to deeper truth and compromise to the blending of aspects of a greater solution. We remember those moving moments when we sensed Your presence, received supernatural power, and pressed on in

spite of tiredness and tension. Help us to forgive and forget any memories of strained relationships or debilitating differences. Preserve the friendships that reach across party lines. Father, help us to finish well. Give us strength to complete the work of this day with expeditious excellence. Renew the weary, reinforce the fatigued, rejuvenate the anxious. When it is all said and done, there is one last word we long to hear. It is Your divine accolade, "Well done, good and faithful servant." In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, of Mississippi, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately begin

consideration of the omnibus appropriations bill. There will be debate only on that matter until 2 p.m. today. Rollcall votes could occur any time after 2 p.m., on or in relation to the omnibus appropriations bill, or other items cleared for action.

The Senate may also be asked to turn to consideration of the conference reports accompanying the Defense appropriations bill, the FAA reauthorization bill, or a parks bill. This is a different parks bill from the one that has been pending in the Senate now for several days, but it did pass the House by an overwhelming margin, I think with only seven votes against it.

A late-night session is possible in order to complete action on the omnibus appropriations bill, which must be signed by the President by midnight tonight in order to fund various parts of the Government for the new fiscal year, which begins tomorrow.

Let me say, Mr. President, again, that I am very pleased we were able to

NOTICE

A final issue of the Congressional Record for the 104th Congress will be published on October 21, 1996, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

WILLIAM M. THOMAS, *Chairman*.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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reach agreement on this omnibus appropriations bill. It is before us. It is large. But it has been reviewed by the House. In fact, the House voted to pass the omnibus appropriations bill by a vote of 370 to 37, an overwhelming vote of approval. I listened to the debate well into the night on Saturday night. In fact, I stayed up until I saw the final vote, at about 10:30. They went into a lot of detail on what is in the bill. I was somewhat surprised and impressed by the way that it was presented, the information that was given to the House Members, and by the extremely bipartisan and very gentle debate that occurred.

Congressmen who had been fighting each other vigorously for the last 2 years were praising each other and saying what a good job had been done. Any time you have a bill this large, I am sure there are some mistakes included. I am sure that any one of us can find a lot of things that we do not like about it. But it has been passed, now, by the House. The President has endorsed it in writing. His letter of endorsement is in the RECORD. I placed it there last Saturday.

Now it is incumbent upon the Senate to do our job. It is all in our hands. We must act on this before late tonight so it will have time to be put together and delivered to the President. We have a number of Senators who have questions they want to raise about it, perhaps. The conference—the Democrats will meet at 12, the Republicans will be meeting at 2. We will talk it through. It is going to take a lot of cooperation—and sacrifice, as a matter of fact, in some cases, to get work completed.

There are other issues pending. Obviously, we need to get the FAA reauthorization done. I am committed to doing that. There appear to be some Senators who are willing to have a scorched earth policy, which would work against the Federal Aviation Administration, airport safety in America, against their individual States, and over a very small provision which is actually a fix in the law that was inadvertently caused.

We need to find way to work this out. We are trying to do it, again in a bipartisan way. I know Senator DASCHLE would like to do that. I know there are Senators like Senator PRYOR and FRITZ HOLLINGS on that side, Senator MCCAIN, and, obviously, Senator STEVENS, and so where there is a will there will surely be a way. We will try to work that out.

The parks bill is a major preservation piece of legislation. Some of the parks that were controversial or were strongly opposed by the administration were taken out. But the chairman of the committee in the House, Congressman YOUNG of Alaska, spoke very strongly for it. Some of the provisions that are desperately desired are in here, such as the Presidio, Tallgrass project—a whole number of others are included in this bill. So I hope we will find a way to get through it and get passage of this parks legislation.

If we can leave tonight having passed the omnibus appropriations bill, the Defense appropriations bill, a parks bill, and the FAA reauthorization, we could go out truly on a very high note.

I know our colleagues who are leaving, like the Senator from Alabama, who I am pleased to see back with us here this morning, are prepared to speak, as well as other Senators who are retiring after many, many years of great service—they would feel very good. It would give us a little time to thank them one last time before they leave this Chamber.

WAIVING CERTAIN ENROLLING REQUIREMENTS IN H.R. 4278—HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 197

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of House Joint Resolution 197, which was received from the House, and further, the joint resolution be considered read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mr. STEVENS. Reserving the right to object, what is that?

Mr. LOTT. That is regarding hand enrollment of the omnibus appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 197) was considered, ordered to a third reading, read for a third time, and passed.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

OMNIBUS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of H.R. 4278, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4278) making omnibus consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I might say to the leader, that last resolution was a significant resolution. I would like to talk about that later.

In any event, Mr. President, let me yield to my good friend from Alabama for the statement he wishes to make, reserving the right to resume the floor after he finishes his short remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

RFD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY AND CONGRESSMAN RICHARD HENRY CLARKE

Mr. HEFLIN. Tomorrow, Mr. President, on October 1 of this year, the Post Office will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rural Free Delivery [RFD]. RFD now serves the whole country, some 25.5 million households and businesses in all, and it is a necessity in States like Alabama. In fact, I am proud to say that Congressman Richard Clarke of Alabama was an early leader in the effort to initiate this service. As this important anniversary approaches, I would like to recount Congressman Clarke's leadership efforts in its successful implementation.

On January 5, 1892, Representative Richard Clarke became the first Member of Congress to introduce a bill to make RFD a permanent service. He introduced bills in two succeeding Congresses, H.R. 13 in the 52d and H.R. 402 in the 53d "To provide for the free collection and delivery of mails in rural districts." He contacted many Members on the need for such legislation and made the first speech advocating the establishment of the program. When the bill was finally adopted by Congress, Mr. Clarke was engaged in a campaign for Governor of Alabama. Therefore, Congressman Tom Watson of Georgia took the lead in obtaining its passage. Although his name does not appear as the official sponsor of the legislation which ultimately created RFD, the people of his district and the State of Alabama have every right to claim that this Member of Congress was a leader in establishing RFD.

Richard H. Clarke was born in Day-ton, Marengo County, AL on February 9, 1843. He attended Green Springs Academy and was graduated first in his class from the University of Alabama in July 1861. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate Army as a lieutenant in the First Battalion of the Alabama Artillery. He later studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1867, and began practicing in his hometown. He later moved to Demopolis, also in Marengo County, where he continued to practice law. From 1872 until 1876, he served as the State solicitor for Marengo County. He was the prosecuting attorney of the seventh judicial circuit in 1876 and 1877 and later resumed his private law practice in Mobile, AL. He served as president of the Alabama State Bar Association in 1897.

He was elected as a Democrat to the 51st Congress and to the three succeeding Congresses. He served from March 4, 1889 through March 3, 1897. He served on the Rivers and Harbors Committee. Among his many legislative accomplishments was the deepening of the channel of Mobile Harbor and the establishment of Mount Vernon Hospital for the mentally ill. He ran for Governor of Alabama as a "sound money"—gold standard—Democrat in 1896, but was defeated by the silver standard candidate, Joseph Johnston. He resumed his law practice and served